GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1116
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2002
SIPAT PROJECT OF BILASPUR
CHARAN DAS MAHANT

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sipat Project of Bilaspur has been converted to 3x600 MW plan from itsnotified original plan (4x500) under Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 without submitting detailed plan and the Central Electricity Authority has also approved the same;

(b) if so, the reasons for not publishing the modified notification before the approval of the Central Electricity Authority under the clause 29(2) of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 whereas the report submitted along with original plan had a mention of field proven design and the 660 MW units tract record;

(c) whether Indian Companies do not set up 660 MW units;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether due to such changes in Sipat project is not certain that this 8000 crore project are likely to be handed over to an MNC; and

(f) if so, the steps taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) & (b) : National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) had originally prepared theFeasibility Report (FR) for Sipat Super Thermal Power Project (STPP) Stage-I considering 500 MW units with sub critical parameters. Provision was made in the FRfor adopting proven supercritical technology in order to derive benefits of higher plant efficiency and reduction in pollution burden.

In terms of Section 29(2) of Electricity (Supply) Act 1948, the generatingcompany is required to publish the salient features of the scheme, estimates of the capital expenditure involved and the benefits of the scheme.

Accordingly, NTPC had published Notification about Sipat STPP Stage-I in Gazette of the Home State (then undivided Madhya Pradesh) and local newspapers, bringing out estimated cost, benefits from the scheme and its salient features including envisaged capacity of 2000 MW for the project. After detailed discussions with Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in early January 2000, capacity of the project was modified involving 3 units of 660 MW each with supercritical parameters based on techno- economic advantages like benefits of better technology, higher efficiency, accelerated capacity addition over conventional sub critical units of 500 MW. (Since no significant change in capacity and cost on this account was involved, publication of modified notification was not considered necessary. CEA after careful consideration accorded techno-economic clearance for Sipat STPP Stage-I with 1980 MW (3x660 MW) Capacity).

(c) to (f) : So far, no 660 MW unit has been set up by Indian Companies.Till date, maximum 500 MW unit size is operational in the country. In case of Sipat Stage-I, it wasdecided to enhance unit size to 660 MW with supercritical parameters to get higher efficiency and accelerated capacity addition.

In line with the procedure followed in the past, the Main Plant Package for3x660 MW units for the project is proposed to be procured by NTPC under International Competitive Bidding (ICB). The bidding is open to qualified Indian as well as foreign bidders.

Technical specification for 3x660 MW units have been prepared subsequently to detailed discussions with leading Indian suppliers considering the capabilities of Indian manufactures. The qualification requirements for the bidders who are expected to participate in the tenders have been prepared in such a way that it will enable participation of reputed Indian as well as foreign companies.